



**ST. JOSEPH'S**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
**NEWS & NOTES**

*Striving to form the MINDS, HEARTS, and SOULS of its students in the likeness of Christ.*

**From the Desk of the Headmaster**

Greetings from St. Joseph's Catholic School!

On Sunday, December 3, the liturgical year begins anew with the season of Advent, the four-week period during which we anticipate the coming of the Son of God. During these weeks, may our hearts be stirred to seek Christ anew in our lives and may we be ever mindful that St. Joseph's Catholic School exists, in the words of our mission statement, "to form the minds, hearts and souls of our students in the likeness in Christ."

**Annual SJCS Kairos Junior Retreat**

Please keep the members of the Class of 2019 in your thoughts and prayers during the first weekend in December, as 85 members of this class will be on the Kairos Retreat at Kanuga Retreat and Conference Center in Hendersonville, NC. This retreat has historically been a life-changing experience for our kids. Please pray that our 11<sup>th</sup> graders will grow in the certainty of God's love and care for them during this stressful year as they begin to discern in earnest what God might be calling them to after high school.

**Prospective Parent Night & Information about SJCS' New Sixth Grade Academy**

On Tuesday, December 5, the SJCS Admission Office will host an event for prospective parents as a follow up to the November Admissions Open House, which officially opened the 2018-2019 admissions season. Prospective Parent Night is a great opportunity for parents to learn more details about what St. Joseph's has to offer families in a casual question-and-answer setting with Dr. Jones, Father Duncan, RJ Beach, myself, and other key school administrators.

Of particular interest to families with current 5th graders and younger elementary students will be the information we will be sharing about changes to our 6th grade program and the establishment in August 2018 of what we are calling The SJCS Sixth 6th Grade Academy. So, make plans to attend and invite a friend in order to be the first to learn about this exciting new development and how we think it will enhance the 6th grade experience.

**NEW! Campus Ministry Family Gatherings—Look for more of them in the new semester...**

I want to call your attention to something that has happened unexpectedly in our school community this year. Some "Campus Ministry Moms," who have been meeting regularly to assist Mr. Lewis, expressed a desire for regular moments of family fellowship. Two events this fall were born from this desire: a potluck tailgate before a football game followed up in November by a "Friendsgiving Dinner" in the school cafeteria. My family attended both events in the fall, and they were wonderful opportunities to get to know other school families while sharing a meal and enjoying a little entertainment by SJCS students. I'm not sure what these women have cooked up for the second semester, but based on what I saw in the fall, I know it will be good. So, please stay tuned. I think the idea is to have an event every month or so.

**January Parent2Parent Topic: Ideas for Building a More Positive Relationship with Your Teen**

Speaking of getting school parents together, the two Parent2Parent Meetings we had this fall went very well. Our meeting in October was about teenage stress and anxiety, and the November session shed light on how best to manage teenagers' use of technology. There's an interesting correlation, it turns out, between these two topics, with recent studies indicating a link between the amount of time a teenager spends on social media and increased levels of stress and anxiety.

In January, we will turn our attention to sharing ideas for how to foster a positive relationship with your teen. The "expert" presenter for the 7:00 PM Wednesday, January 17 Parent2Parent Meeting is actually going to be a panel of SJCS recent graduates who will talk about what their parents did and said that made them want to open up and talk with them. Conversely, they will also share what their parents did or said that tended to shut down lines of communication. It should

be a very interesting evening. I hope you'll consider joining us.

Parent2Parent meetings begin with a 30-minute presentation by an expert from the community on a topic of relevance to SJCS parents, followed a brief Q & A session with the presenter. Then, parents are clustered by the age of their SJCS children into discussion groups in order to further explore the topic at hand through the sharing of experiences and best practices. The meetings conclude with a brief social at 8:30 PM for those who want to stay and visit with one another.

### **Bishop Guglielmo "Confirmed" for Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, February 3**

I know that I've mentioned this more than once in previous *News & Notes* letters, but I don't want your family to miss the fact that the school is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday evening, February 3. You should be receiving a "Save the Date" card in the mail soon. Please put this date on your family calendar. The Bishop has confirmed that he will be with us to begin the evening's celebration with a 5:00 PM Mass. And I learned recently that St. Joseph's own Father Andrew Fryml (Class of 2008) will be on hand to concelebrate the Mass. Food trucks, an Alumni Awards Presentation, and Live Music will follow in the gym. There is no charge for the event, but you will need money to purchase food and beverages. Please keep in mind that we have planned this event with the whole family in mind, so please bring the kids.

### **Athletic Director RJ Beach to Retire at the End of the 2017-2018 School Year**

And finally, I am sad to have to inform you that we will be saying goodbye to Coach RJ Beach, who told me recently that he's retiring at the end of this school year. I think we all agree that RJ has done a fabulous job for our athletes and their coaches during his brief tenure with us. While we had hoped that he'd be with us a few more years, we can all understand the attraction of early retirement if one can make it work! A search will commence immediately for a new Athletic Director, so we should be in great shape for a smooth transition in June.

In closing, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for the Reynolds family (Anne Marie '05, Liz '11, Katherine '13 and longtime Board Member, Lib Reynolds) on the loss of their uncle and brother (as well as a SJCS Board Member in the early years) Mike McGrady; for Dawn Hawkins and her family on the loss of her uncle; for Morgan and Hammond Fayssoux and their family on the loss of their grandmother.

With Love and Prayers,  
Keith F. Kiser  
Headmaster

## **Things You Need To Know**

### **Junior Class Kairos Retreat, December 1-3**

The annual junior class Kairos Retreat will take place December 1-3 at Kanuga Retreat Center in Hendersonville, NC. Information has already been communicated to parents of participants. Please pray that the juniors who attend experience the love of God and of the Christian community. Questions? Contact Faculty Kairos Leaders, [Julie Schroeder](#) or [Gabe Lewis](#).

### **Box Tops for Education Due December 5**

Collect your box tops to raise money for our school and help your student earn Household Points and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. Before sending them in, please cut them out and check expiration dates. Our next collection deadline is Tuesday, December 5. Questions? Contact [Meredith Dobson](#) or [Stacy Covington](#).

### **Prospective Parent Night, December 5**

Please help us spread the word about this event if you know a prospective parent who 1) has a son or daughter who has already applied, or 2) has a child who might be interested in applying, or 3) did not get a chance to attend the November Open House. Prospective Parent Night, to be held from 5:30-7:00 PM at the school, is a great way for parents to gather more information about our programs and to see what sets SJCS apart from other schools...all in a small group setting. Several administrators will be on hand to present information on a wide range of topics focusing on Curriculum, Co-Curriculars, Student Life, and more, including the new Sixth Grade Academy. No RSVP required.

### **Band, Strings, & MS Dance Ensembles Christmas Concerts, December 7 & 11**

This year the Fine Arts Department will sponsor the following concerts which will begin at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center:

- Thursday, December 7: Band Ensembles & MS Dance Ensemble

- Monday, December 11: Strings Ensembles

Admission is free to all concerts. Jubilate Arts Guild members will receive priority seating based on their membership level. Seating will not be assigned, but doors will open to Jubilate Members only at 6:30 PM, followed by general admission at 6:45 PM. Be sure to pick up your Jubilate Arts Guild member tag at check-in. Additionally, the Fine Arts Department decals and Christmas ornaments will be available for purchase in the HS Commons.

#### **All-School Mass, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8**

On Friday, December 8 at 9:26 AM, students will attend an all-school Mass in celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is a holy day of obligation for Catholics. We flip our Thursday (Mass Day) and Friday schedule that week.

#### **March for Life Trip Registration Deadline, December 8**

SJCS Campus Ministry will be traveling to Washington D.C. January 17-20, 2018 for the 45th annual March for Life to bear witness to the dignity of human life from conception until natural death. HS students and their families are invited to attend. However, MS students must attend with a parent. The buses will leave after dismissal on Wednesday, January 17 and return the evening of Saturday, January 20. For more information or to register for the March for Life trip, click [HERE](#). The deadline for registration is December 8. Questions? Contact SJCS Parent and March for Life Trip coordinator [Brandi Koontz](#).

#### **MS Campus Ministry Youth Night & Family Potluck, December 9**

Any and all MS students and their parents are invited to a dinner at 6:30 PM on Saturday, December 9, followed by a youth night of games, high school student witnesses, dances, and a brief adult program as well. Kids and parents will come together at the end for an ice-cream social and closing prayer. The night should be over by 8:30 PM. For more information or if you are a parent who would like to volunteer to help, please contact [Sabrina Moore](#).

#### **Choral Ensembles Christmas Concert, December 10**

The Fine Arts Department will sponsor the following concert, beginning at 7:30 PM at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church:

- Sunday, December 10: Choral Ensembles

Admission is free and doors will be open to all patrons at 7:00 PM. For Jubilate Arts Guild members, there will be reserved rows for priority seating based on their membership level. Jubilate members should pick up member tag at check-in in order to have seats in this reserved area. Additionally, the Fine Arts Department decals and Christmas ornaments will be available for purchase at the concert.

#### **Toys for Tots Toy Drive Ends December 11**

The MS Chess Club is sponsoring a Toys for Tots Toy Drive. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for any age boy or girl. There are 3 boxes around campus to place the toys in: one in the front office, one inside the HS entrance, and one near the MS carline entrance. Donations will be collected until Thursday, December 11.

#### **Second Quarter Ends, December 14**

Grading for the second quarter ends on Thursday, December 14.

#### **MS Christmas Parties, December 15, 18, 19**

MS students will have their Christmas parties separately by grade level during their Related Arts periods. The eighth grade party will be on December 15, the seventh grade on December 18, and the sixth grade on December 19. Look for an email from Melissa Broering requesting food and help with these parties.

#### **Sixth & Seventh Grade Schedule for December 15-20**

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades will also be dismissed at 12:15 PM on December 15, 18, and 19. Wednesday, December 20 will be the last day for students before the Christmas break and they will be dismissed at 10:00 AM. They will not have exams but will follow the exam schedule with two long classes each day. Please see the exam schedule for details.

#### **Eighth Grade & HS Exams, December 15-20**

Please see the exam schedule and guidelines detailed in this edition of *News and Notes*. Please avoid taking students out for appointments on exam days and remember that exams may not be taken early.

#### **No Late Stay, December 20**

There will be NO LATE STAY on Wednesday, December 20. Students will be dismissed at 10:00 AM on December 20. Please make arrangements to have your child picked up at that time.

**HS Advent Overnight Retreat, December 20-21**

SJCS HS Campus Ministry invites any and all HS students to attend an Advent Retreat after exams from 1:00 PM on Wednesday, December 20 until Noon on Thursday, December 21. The day will include a lesson, some time for prayer, dinner, games, singing, a campfire, a hike, Mass, adoration, and more. Questions? Contact [Gabe Lewis](#) or [Michele Houmis](#). To RSVP, click [HERE](#).

**Christmas Break, December 21- January 2**

There will be no classes. The school and school offices will be closed. Classes will resume and the school office will re-open on Wednesday, January 3.

**Second Quarter Grades Emailed, December 22**

Second Quarter/Semester I report cards will be emailed on Friday, December 22, after 4:00 PM. Please remember to check your *junk mail*. If you **do not** receive the link for the report card, please email the Registrar, [Carol Curry](#). Any questions regarding your student's grade, however, should be directed toward his/her teacher.

**Alumni Christmas Social, December 22**

All SJCS alumni are welcome to the annual Christmas Social hosted by the Alumni Board, held at the Commerce Club in downtown Greenville on Friday, December 22 from 7:30-10:30 PM. Join us for holiday cheer, appetizers, and raffle prizes including 2018 Gala tickets. This is an incredibly well attended event by alumni of all ages and we can't wait to see our alumni there! Questions? Contact [Rachel Neubauer](#) in the Development Office.

**January After-School Art Class (X-acto Knife Canvas Art) Registration Deadline, January 3**

This class is open to any member of the SJCS community (students, faculty/staff, parents, grandparents, and alumni) and will take place in the Art Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-4:15 PM beginning January 4. The cost is \$50 and all supplies will be provided. Pre-registration is required and enrollment must be made per month/project. Contact [Deborah Pickard](#) for more information or to enroll in a class

**HS Second Semester Add/Drop Period, January 3-12**

The period to add or drop a course for Semester II is from January 3-12. Course Add/Drop Forms will be available in the College Counseling Office beginning December 11 and must be returned between January 3-12. Only semester courses may be added or dropped, and only on a space-available basis.

**Priority Admissions Testing, January 6 OR February 3**

SJCS is now accepting applications for the 2018-19 school year, and if you have a child who plans to enter SJCS in August 2018, or you know someone who does, please do not delay. Priority admissions testing is Saturday, January 6 OR Saturday, February 3 for all grades. High school applicants will have a chance to compete for one of two academic scholarships by testing on one of these two dates. All applicants who test on one of these two dates will be among the first notified (around March 15). All testing will be held on campus beginning at 8:30 AM. A completed application must be on file prior to testing.

**Basketball Intramurals Begin, January 6**

Basketball intramurals begin on Saturday, January 6 from 9:30-11:30 AM and will be held every Saturday through February 10. Intramurals are open to all boys and girls enrolled at SJCS in grades 6-8. The deadline to register for basketball intramurals is Friday, January 5. Registration, found [HERE](#) is required. Questions? Contact Coach [Paul Assinesi](#).

**HS Fine Arts Coffeehouse, January 12**

On Friday, January 12 from 5:00-7:00 PM, the Jubilate Arts Guild and Fine Arts Department will be sponsoring the final HS Coffeehouse of the school year. This event will take place in the SJCS Cafeteria. All HS students are encouraged to participate in this event and we invite all families to attend. MS students are permitted to come if an older sibling is performing, but must be accompanied by their parents. Plan to come for an evening of coffee, fellowship, and open-mic entertainment. Equipment will be available for those interested in performing a favorite poem, song, or monologue throughout the evening. Entrance is through the HS student entrance and admission is \$5.00 per person. This admission fee will be charged to the student's account (additional family members who attend will also be counted into the account charges).

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15**

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the school and school offices will be closed.

**Eighth Grade Day, January 17**

All SJCS eighth grade parents received a letter from Keith Kiser in the fall with details on transitioning your eighth grade son or daughter into high school. The annual Eighth Grade Day, to be held on Wednesday, January 17, is the day when all SJCS eighth graders are not in their regular classes; rather, they take the High School Placement Test here at school, are treated to a special lunch, and participate in a panel discussion with high school students...all designed to help ready them for high school. As way of a reminder, there are several reasons for eighth graders to complete our placement test: 1) the test helps determine eligibility for academic scholarships awarded each year to two incoming freshmen; 2) the test provides us valuable data on our incoming ninth grade students; and, 3) the test will assist in placing your child in the correct high school classes. This is considered a regular school day and all eighth graders should be in attendance. If your son/daughter is absent on January 17, he/she will need to take the High School Placement Test on Saturday, February 3. In addition, eighth graders may have a Free Dress Day on this date, following the guidelines in the Parent/Student Handbook. Dismissal is at the regular Wednesday time of 1:15 PM.

**Spirit Week, January 22-26**

Once again SJCS will collaborate with Christ Church Episcopal School for Spirit Week 2018. This year will benefit [Serenity Place](#), part of the work of [The Family Effect](#). More information will be sent to all students and parents via e-mail, but below is a very brief overview of what can be expected during the week:

- \$10 to dress-down for the entire week (charged to student accounts)
- Profit Sharing at various restaurants throughout the Greenville area
- Activities during the school day (tournaments, challenges, carnivals, Karaoke)
- Evening activities (cycling class, bowling, skating, movie night)
- Pep Rally on Friday
- A chili cook-off before the SJCS vs. CCES basketball game on Friday night, so prepare your best recipes!

All families and students are invited to participate in as many events as possible during this week to benefit the mothers and children of Serenity Place. For questions about Spirit Week, and our work with The Family Effect, please contact SJCS HS Student Council Moderators [Jen Collins](#) or [Gabe Lewis](#).

**Fifth Annual Pastors Appreciation Luncheon, January 25**

St. Joseph's will again host its Fifth Annual Pastors Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, January 25 from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM. During this special event, held at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we invite all of the clergy of our non-Catholic students to join us for a catered lunch on campus. Invitations will be sent out in the following weeks, but non-Catholic students are encouraged to personally invite their pastors. Questions? Contact [Father Jonathan Duncan](#).

**HS MORP Dance, January 27**

The annual MORP dance (spell it backwards to understand the name!) will take place from 7:30-10:30 PM at the SJCS Gym. The proceeds from the dance will also benefit the 2018 Spirit Week charity, Serenity Place. More information on this dance and the cost will be announced to students in December.

**Catholic Schools Week, January 28-February 3**

St. Joseph's will join with Catholic schools throughout the nation celebrating the gift of Catholic education. Activities will be light this year, since this week follows directly on the heels of Spirit Week, but look for the following events:

- Teacher Appreciation Day
- Student Appreciation Day
- Priest Appreciation Day

**Used Uniform Sale, February 1**

The next Used Uniform Sale will take place on Thursday, February 1 from 2:30-5:30 PM in Mr. Perham (Room 404) and Mrs. DeMars (Room 403) classrooms (directly across from the Meeting Room). This is the same night as the Admissions Wine and Cheese Event and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade play. All volunteers and Mills Uniform donations are welcome. We will no longer be accepting donations of uniforms from Educational Outfitters. We are currently collecting the old uniforms to send to schools affected by the hurricanes this year. Please feel free to drop them off at the front desk or bring them to the sale to donate. If you would like to help or would like more information, contact [Heather Malone-Grippe](#).

**MS Parent Wine & Cheese Social, February 1**

This is a great opportunity to hear from, socialize, and speak with school officials and other parents in a small, informal setting. Prior to the Eighth Grade Play, all MS parents are invited to a Wine/Cheese Social to be held at the school on Thursday night, February 1 from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Meeting Room. Socialize from 5:30-6:00 PM, and beginning at 6:00 PM, Mr.

Kiser and other school administrators will share information about the school and invite your questions and participation.

### **Eighth Grade Play, Once Upon a High School, February 1**

In celebration of Catholic School's Week, the SJCS Fine Arts Department will be presenting the tenth annual Eighth Grade Play on Thursday, February 1. Join us for this production, starring 43 students in our 8th grade class. The performance begins at 7:00 PM with free admission. Seating will be open for Jubilate Arts Guild members from 6:30-6:45 PM and general admission will begin at 6:45 PM. Concessions will be for sale during Intermission.

### **College Planning Night for Juniors, February 6**

Brad Pochard, Associate Vice President for Admissions at Furman will be at SJCS on February 6, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center. He will present on some of the following topics: College Admission Calendar, Key Terms (Early Decision, Early Action, Rolling Admission, Wait List, Common Application, etc.), Student/Parent/School Responsibilities, How to Research College Information, College Entrance Exams, and Financial Aid. At least one parent must attend with their student. We will let you know who your college counselor will be and will begin scheduling individual student/family meetings following this meeting.

### **HS Parent Wine & Cheese Social, February 8**

This is a great opportunity to hear from, socialize, and speak with school officials and other parents in a small, informal setting. Prior to the Freshman/Sophomore College Counseling program, all HS parents are invited to a Wine/Cheese Social to be held at the school on Thursday night, February 8 from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Meeting Room. Socialize from 5:30-6:00 PM, and beginning at 6:00 PM, Mr. Kiser and other school administrators will share information about the school and invite your questions and participation.

### **Freshman & Sophomore College Counseling Night, February 8**

The annual meeting for freshmen and sophomores and their parents to discuss general academic and college planning items will be February 8 at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center: All Freshmen and Sophomore families must attend this meeting at least once (either during the students' freshman or sophomore year). Students are asked to sit with their parents.

### **MS "Bring a Friend to School" Registration Deadline, February 9**

Current families can help the school out in two ways in regards to this event: 1) Does your middle school child have a friend who would like to see what St. Joseph's is like? SJCS MS students are invited to bring one friend (currently in grades 5-7) to school on Friday, February 16 for a half-day of classes and lunch. St. Joseph's will operate on a regular Friday schedule that day (Greenville County Schools have Friday, February 16 off). Please direct the parents of your child's friend to the links on our website home page in January. All forms are due no later than Friday, February 9 for requests to be honored. *First come, first served. As classroom space is limited, we have to limit the number of participants.* 2) Would your middle school child be interested in hosting a student they do not know on this day? If so, please submit your child's name to [Jenny Starks](#) in the Admissions Office by no later than February 9.

### **Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration, February 3**

Join us as we celebrate 25 years of Forming Hearts, Minds, and Souls in the Likeness of Christ! The celebration will begin with a 5:00 PM Vigil Mass with Bishop Robert Guglielmone, SJCS Alum Father Andrew Fryml, Father Jonathon Duncan, and Father Jay Scott Newman. Following Mass we will have a lively celebration with some of Greenville's top food trucks, a beer garden sponsored by Growler Haus, school tours, [Special Alumni Awards](#), keynote by Dr. Joby Moon, and live musical performances by Randomonium, Descent, Winter Sounds, Laura Gragtmans, and Insideout and Backwards. The cost to attend the event is free, but RSVP's are requested. Please RSVP for this event [HERE](#).

### **Travel & Dive Deeper into History, Spring 2019**

To commemorate the historic events of the ending of WWI and the landing on the Beaches of Normandy, SJCS is taking a trip to these very places of history! The Anne Frank House, Tower of London, and Westminster Abbey will also be visited. All current 8th-11th grade students are eligible. Any student who signs up in the months of December and January will receive an I-Tunes gift card. There is also the opportunity to earn half of a SJCS credit in English or History. For more info, contact [Jennie Neighbors](#) or [Meby Carr](#) or click [HERE](#) to see itinerary details and to sign up and view payment plans. Sign-ups have begun and we are over halfway full.

### **Thank You, School Families!**

Special thanks to all the students, staff, and parents who helped contribute to a successful Open House on November 5: to the parents who sent in food and drinks for the reception, to the parent volunteers who worked the reception, to the

students who gave of their time to give campus tours, and to everyone who displayed an Open House window cling on their car. Many, many thanks!

### **Community Service Hours**

The holiday season provides many opportunities for community service. It is the perfect time for students to share their time and talents with those less fortunate. Students should continue to check the website and the daily bulletins for service opportunities and are encouraged to seek out other community needs as well. At this point in the school year, students should be at least halfway to completing their community service requirements. Current community service opportunities, as well as the requirements for graduation and the service hour documentation form can be found [HERE](#). These forms should be submitted to Household Deans once completed. Community service at SJCS should always be rooted in the [Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy](#). If you have a question about whether a project meets these requirements, please consult with your Household Dean.

### **Cafeteria Service**

Flik Dining Services provides cafeteria service during the day. Breakfast items are served from 7:30-7:45 AM, lunch is served during MS and HS lunch periods, and snacks are sold for 45 minutes at the end of each school day. In addition, à la carte items, pizza, and Stromboli are served during Household on Wednesdays. Also, trays for Household snacks, Household lunches, and/or team meals are available for purchase. To see the options available for purchase, please click on the following links: [Household Lunch Options](#) and [Household Snack Options](#).

## **\*\*\* PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE \*\*\***

### **Eighth Grade & HS First Semester Exam Schedule**

**Location: Various Classrooms of Instruction**

<b>Friday, December 15</b>	<b>8:05 – 10:00 AM</b>	<b>10:20 AM – 12:15 PM</b>
<b>Monday, December 18</b>	<b>First Period</b>	<b>Second Period</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 19</b>	<b>Third Period</b>	<b>HS Fourth Period/MS Fifth Period</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 20</b>	<b>Sixth Period</b>	<b>Seventh Period</b>
<b>Thursday, December 21</b>	<b>Eighth Period</b>	<b>Make-up Exam</b>
	<b>(Make-ups if needed)</b>	<b>(Make-ups if needed)</b>

#### **Exam Guidelines**

1. Students are to report directly to their designated exam rooms. All students should be seated by 8:00 AM. Any students arriving after 8:00 AM will be considered tardy. No students are to be admitted to the exam once the exam has been distributed. Likewise for the second exam, students should be seated and attendance taken by 10:15 AM, and no student may be admitted once the exam has been distributed.
2. Students may bring review materials for other exams to study quietly if they finish their exam early. Silence should be maintained from the moment the exams are distributed until all exams are collected at the end of the testing period. Students may ask quiet, non test-related questions. Students who have questions should raise their hands and the proctor will attend to them quietly.
3. Once the exams begin, students should not be permitted to leave the examination rooms. Restroom trips should be limited to emergencies and then only after the student has turned in his/her exam.
4. All students must remain in their designated exam rooms until the exam period is over. Quiet is to be maintained at all times. Students should remain in their seats until the last exam is turned in.
5. Students on campus who are not taking exams must remain in the library. The library will be a designated study hall; the proctor may allow students to leave the library one at a time to use the restroom. All other normal study hall procedures are to remain in force.
6. Students with only one exam on a given day need be present for that exam only. In other words, they can leave after their first exam if they don't have a 10:20 AM exam, and they can arrive at 10:15 AM if they don't have an 8:05 AM exam. Students leaving after their first exam must sign out and leave through the front office.

### From the Academic Dean

People talk. When I meet someone new at a party or a dinner invariably I'm asked what I do, and when I tell them I work at St. Joseph's, the majority of them already have an opinion. The vast majority of the time it's positive. "Oh, that's a good school," or "I hear good things about that place." Occasionally it's neutral, as in "Isn't that behind Carmax?" On very rare occasions (I think two in 5 years) it's been critical, and in both of those cases, it was based on rumor. One time, it was about how we can't get our students into good schools, and another time, it was about how our tuition was going to double the next year. I put both those to rest, at least for the people who brought them up to me.

Good, bad, or indifferent, it seems that most people already "know" about St. Joseph's. I take it for granted that that's not because they read all the same newsletters, listservs, articles, and books I read that focus on middle and secondary education in America. No, their opinions have been formed because of what they've seen or heard. Like I said, people talk. That's one of the reasons we try to impress on our students the importance of representing the school in a positive manner. Ball caps, shirts, hoodies...anything with "St. Joseph's" on it becomes an advertisement as soon as you step off our campus and into the community at large. Along these same lines, over and over we hear from prospective parents that the number one reason they thought to contact us at all was because of another set of parents they know who said good things about St. Joseph's. Many parents I talk with at Open House or other admission-related settings tell me that they really had nothing beyond a vague ambition to send their kids to a private school, but that one of their neighbors or coworkers is "always talking about how great" St. Joseph's is. With that in mind, the following numbers, easily memorized, might be good fodder for conversation during this admission season:

- \$11 million in scholarships awarded to the Class of 2017
- 97% reported getting into their first and/or second choice college
- 100% college acceptance rate

Those numbers are worth talking about.

### From the Parents Guild

#### Belk Charity Day Sale

Your support of the Belk Charity Day Sale helped to raise close to \$1200 for our school. Thanks to everyone who participated! If you missed this sale, look for the next opportunity in April.

#### After-Prom

Back by popular demand! After dancing the night away at prom, students can head over to the Sports Club at Five Forks in Simpsonville for After-Prom! Prizes, food, and fun will culminate this special evening for our students. We are already accepting donations for prizes, like \$10 gifts cards (think food and gas cards) or larger prizes for our senior raffle (think college dorm gifts: dorm refrigerator, Keurig, bluetooth speakers, TV, ENO, etc). If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please contact [Blair Bailey](#).

#### Catholic Schools Week

Each year, parents treat the faculty and staff to a luncheon during Catholic Schools Week (January 29 - February 3). To further show our appreciation, each member of the faculty and staff are given a gift card. Be on the lookout for ways to participate in the luncheon and start collecting those gift cards (valued at \$10 to \$25). Gift cards can be sent to the school, marked to the attention of Parents Guild.

#### Volunteer Sign-Up Form

There are many volunteer opportunities at SJCS and our needs continue to grow. To view or fill out the form, click [HERE](#). Many thanks to those that have signed up. We appreciate your dedication to our school community.

#### Publix: No Cost Fundraiser

Did you know that Publix has donated over \$53,000 to SJCS since we've been participating in the Publix Partners Program. Keep swiping those key tags, the donations certainly add up! Need one? Pick one up in the front lobby of the school, and consider giving one to grandparents who support SJCS. No registration is required.

#### With Appreciation

We are so thankful for all of the many volunteers. Thanks to Lisa Lillibridge and committee for their assistance with Open House; Jill Murphy and Rita Taylor for their work on the Belk Charity Day Sale; Katie Martin and volunteers for making Grandparents Day so special; and Emina Barron and volunteer bakers for providing Thanksgiving pumpkin bread and Christmas cookies for faculty and staff.

### From the Athletic Department

#### Spring Practice/Tryout Schedule

- MS Baseball: January 29-February 1 at 3:30 PM
- JV & Varsity Baseball: January 29-February 1 at 5:00 PM
- Boys Golf: January 30 at 2:30 PM at the Preserve at Verdae and February 7 at 2:40 PM at Chanticleer
- Boys Lacrosse: January 22 from 4:00-6:00 PM at Sunset Park
- Girls Lacrosse: January 22 from 4:00-6:00 PM at Sunset Park
- JV & Varsity Boys Soccer: January 29 from 3:30-5:00 PM on SJCS stadium field
- JV & Varsity Girls Soccer: January 29 from 5:30-7:00 PM on SJCS Stadium field
- Softball: February 12-16 from 3:45-5:15 PM
- JV Softball: February 19 from 3:45-5:15 PM
- Varsity Softball: February 19 from 4:00-6:00 PM
- Boys Tennis: January 29 at 3:30 PM
- Track: January 29 from 3:30-5:00 PM, meet in the front of the gym

Please note that all required athletic forms MUST be turned in to the athletic office before practice begins.

#### Sports Participation Requirements

In order to participate on a SJCS sports team, three forms must be completed and turned in prior to tryouts. NO EXCEPTIONS! The required forms are: [Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form/Physical History Form](#) and [Concussion Consent Form](#). Students will not be permitted to try out unless both forms are turned in prior to the first tryout, workout, and/or practice date. All forms should be submitted to SJCS, Attention: Athletic Office. Please note: the medical form must be dated on or after April 1, 2017, in order for your son or daughter to participate through the 2017-2018 school year. Please make a copy of the completed forms for your records before submitting to the school. Also, we are required to have a copy of your child's Birth Certificate on file in the Athletic Office. We must have this form turned in before tryouts begin in order to submit the required eligibility form into the High School League Office. If you have already submitted your son's/daughter's Birth Certificate, you do not need to turn in a copy every year. Questions? Contact Athletic Director, [R.J. Beach](#).

#### Training Consent Form

The Greenville Hospital System will continue to provide SJCS athletes with the services of an athletic trainer. If you would like your child to be treated by our trainer in case of injury, you must also complete the form titled [Athletic Training Services Consent & Authorization Form](#). Please submit form to SJCS, Attention: [Kate Abdelnour](#).

#### Knights Athletic Booster Club

The Knights Athletic Booster Club is the all-sport Booster Club for SJCS. Thank you for your generous support of all SJCS athletes. Remember to use your key tags at any home game, however, home playoff games for any sport are not included in this offer. Again this year, Knight's Athletic Booster Club will cover the cost of admission for the first 20 SJCS students that arrive for all home playoff games.

### From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

#### PSAT 8/9 & PSAT/NMSQT Test Results

PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT test results are expected to be available online in December for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. When scores are ready, the College Board will email an access code to students who included their email address on their test, which will allow them to view their online score report. Click [HERE](#) for information on opening a College Board account, which is necessary for accessing your scores, if you don't already have one. Paper score reports will be distributed in January. Parents will be emailed when students receive these reports at school.

#### Senior College Applications

Please continue to share your good news and advise Ms. Najmabadi and Mrs. Miros of college acceptances and scholarship awards. To date, nearly 30% of the senior class has been accepted to at least one university.

#### Seniors: Transcript Requests

Transcript requests should be made no later than December 1, 2017 for all colleges in which you plan to apply. If you would like for your Mid-Year Report (first semester grades) to be mailed in January (once the first semester grades are finalized), then you must put in your transcript request no later than December 13, 2017.

### From the Business Office

#### Continuous Re-Enrollment, Late January 2018

In order to provide our families with a re-enrollment process that is both seamless and paperless, while maintaining options as well, SJCS has moved to continuous re-enrollment beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. Under the continuous re-enrollment process, students are continually re-enrolled from their initial admission into the school until they graduate from SJCS. In late January, when the next school year's tuition rates are published, parents will receive an email with a link instructing them to select a payment plan for the upcoming school year. In addition, students will be automatically re-enrolled, with a \$300 yearly re-enrollment fee billed to their account. Should a parent desire that their child not return to SJCS for a subsequent year, written notice must be presented to the school's Admissions Office by the end of February.

#### Tuition Assistance

The Tuition Assistance application process for the 2018-2019 school year will begin in early January with a priority deadline of February 15, 2018. You must use your **2017** tax information (actual or estimated) to complete the tuition assistance forms. The tuition assistance process, which will utilize the FACTS tuition assistance application, will be available beginning January 1. Please look for the FACTS link at the bottom of the Affording SJCS page under the Admissions tab on the website.

#### Tuition Statements

- Plan B tuition payments are due Wednesday, January 31, 2018. If your family selected the Plan B tuition, this charge will be included in your January billing statement.
- Tuition account details can be viewed at any time via your family My Backpack portal. You can find the link [HERE](#). Please contact [Melody Thompson](#) if you need help with your user ID or password.
- A reminder to review your account will be sent each month around the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month to each family that has a balance due, or activity on their account during the previous month. Please review your account carefully. All charges over 30 days old will be subject to a 1.50% late fee. You can pay your account online or by sending a check to the Business Office. E-check payments or credit card payments are accepted online. You will be charged a 3.75% convenience fee for these payments.

### From the Development Office

#### Annual Fund

- Our goal this fiscal year (July 2017–June 2018) is to engage the financial support of 100% of our school families, faculty, and staff in giving to the Annual Fund. As of late November an impressive 86% of faculty and staff and almost 30% of our school families have contributed. Congratulations to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade which is leading with a grade level participation of 34%! We will continue to track these participation numbers through the Gala in the Spring.
- The Annual Fund provides approximately 7% of the school's budget that is not covered by tuition. These dollars are raised every year through the generosity of our community, and provide tuition assistance, support for academic programs, athletics, fine arts, campus ministry, and enrich student life. Our Annual Fund goal for this year, which includes proceeds from the Gala, is \$450,000. Questions? Contact [Kevin Meyer](#) and download your [Annual Fund Donation Form](#) today!

#### Alumni Updates!

St. Joseph's wants to know what our SJCS Alums are up to! If you know a graduate who has a story to tell, please email [Rachel Neubauer](#) in the Development Office. Also, please encourage your alumni children and friends to update their alumni information [HERE](#).

#### Annual Auction Gala: A Starry Knight, Friday, April 20

The Gala Committee is already hard at work preparing another magical evening. We encourage you to make plans to join us as we present our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary inspired 'A Starry Knight' on Friday, April 20, 2018. Last year was another memorable event raising over \$280,000 for our Annual Fund which supports tuition assistance, academics, campus ministries, student life, fine arts, and athletics. Please consider getting involved with one of the many Gala volunteer opportunities by contacting Rachel Neubauer in the Development Office.

- As the end of the year approaches, please consider donating to the Annual Auction Gala's Silent Auction, Live Auction, or becoming a Gala Sponsor.
- The Gala sponsorship goal for this year is \$145,000. For details on becoming a Gala Sponsor, please contact [Kevin Meyer](#) in the Development Office.

### From the Fine Arts Department

#### **After School Fine Arts Programming—Spring Semester Updates!**

Don't forget to take the advantage of getting involved with the after school Fine Arts opportunities for music, dance, art, and theatre. Classes meet as listed below. Contact the teacher for each class if you would like more information.

**MS Band Practice Session:** MS Band practice will meet Thursdays from 3:00-3:30 PM. Questions? Contact [Marjorie Malphrus](#).

**MS Dance Club:** MS Dance Club will meet on Tuesdays from 3:15-4:30 PM. Any MS student interested in joining is welcome to stop by to check it out. We are starting all new routines in January and would love more students. Questions? Contact [Tami Kiser](#).

**HS Stage Crew:** The stage crew schedule varies after school and on Saturdays; but will usually be after school three days a week. Questions? Contact [Teresa McGrath](#).

**Cantor Choir:** Any student interesting in cantoring for All-School Masses should join the Cantor Choir rehearsals on Wednesdays during Study Help. Questions? Contact [Kenneth Tice](#).

#### **Volunteers Needed**

Please contact [Teresa McGrath](#) for more information on how to volunteer for either of the opportunities below:

- Any parents or students willing to donate their time and talents to the Fine Arts Department through their sewing skills
- Any parents willing to assist with supervision during after-school and Saturday crew sessions

#### **Red Door & St. John Paul II Chapel Ornaments**

Don't miss your chance to get your red door glass ornaments or a St. John Paul II Chapel commemorative ornament designed by SJCS Art Teacher, Deborah Pickard. These beautiful keepsakes will make ideal Christmas gifts for students, alumni, parents, grandparents, or teachers. All proceeds will support SJCS Fine Arts programs. Ornaments will be for sale in December at the Band, Strings, and Choral Christmas concerts. Sample ornaments are on display in the entryway to the school office or they can be seen [here](#). Questions? Contact [Amy Poinsette](#).

#### **Jubilate Knight for the Arts, May 5, 2018**

Preparations have begun for the annual Jubilate Arts Guild event, "Jubilate Knight for the Arts" on Saturday, May 5, 2018. This family-friendly talent competition highlights our artistically gifted St. Joseph's community. Patrons will have an opportunity to support the SJCS Fine Arts programs during this entertaining celebration of the arts. Plan on attending this evening of creative performances.

**To audition:** Any member of the SJCS community (students, teachers, parents, alumni, siblings) is welcome to audition. Music, comedy, drama, dance, juggling, hula hooping, magic shows, and so many more talents are welcome. Start preparing your performance now! Performances may be up to four minutes in length. Visit the school website in December for more details and audition dates. Questions? Contact [Teresa McGrath](#).

**To Volunteer:** If you are interested in helping plan Jubilate Knight or would like to volunteer at the event, please contact [Amy Poinsette](#).